

Agriculture/Residential Working Group Meeting

June 4, 2015

Meeting Notes

Location: CE&H Ruritan Hall, 8881 Eclipse Drive, Suffolk, VA 23434

Start: 5:30 pm
End: 7:00 pm

Meeting Attendees:

Dana Gonzalez- DEQ/TRO, Jennifer Howell-DEQ/TRO, Dinah Oliver-DEQ/TRO, Jim Winters-NRPA, Erin Rountree-Suffolk Public Works, Melissa Lindgren-Isle of Wight, Elizabeth Taraski-NRPA, Brian Martin-NRPA, Karla Smith- NRPA, David Gill-NRPA, Jacob Dorman-City of Suffolk, Shelley Barlow-Cotton Plains Farm, Mike Reiss-NRPA, David A. Kuzma-Isle of Wight

I. Agenda Item: Best Management Practices (BMPs), Timeline, and Costs

Discussion: DEQ representatives reviewed the best management practices to be included in the plan as well as the associated costs and timeline for implementation. Agricultural BMPs were discussed first. DEQ representatives explained that when VACS practice codes are used in the plan, the VACS program manual should be the ultimate guide for cost share reimbursement. Dollar amounts are included in the plan as place holders for maximum reimbursement costs. In addition, DEQ representatives explained that the acreage of small grain cover crop (SL-8B) was increased in the plan in order to reflect the high usage of the BMP by farmers in the watershed. Cover crop acres were based on the Soil and Water Conservation District Representative's estimate that 75% of the cropland in the area has small grain cover crops.

DEQ representatives explained the education programs proposed in the plan. One stakeholder pointed out that if recreational boater education will educate boaters about the hazards of disposing waste directly overboard, there should be funding allotted for a boater pump-out in the area. The group agreed that including a pump out in the plan as well as explaining HRSD's boater pump-out service in the education portion of the plan would be helpful. In addition, one stakeholder suggested that a buffer project could also incorporate a walking trail along the water. The City of Suffolk noted that in light of these suggestions, it would be advantageous to look at the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Some of the activities included in the master plan may mesh well with the activities in the implementation plan.

At the end of the meeting, several questions were asked about the timeline for the rest of the plan as well as execution of the plan. DEQ representatives explained the progression of additional meetings required before a 30 day public comment period and submission to EPA for approval. Once EPA has approved the plan it is eligible for 319 nonpoint source funding, which means that local stakeholders would be able to apply for the funding the next time a request for applications is issued. The nonpoint source funding cannot be used to satisfy any permit conditions (i.e. MS4 permits), as it is only allotted for addressing unpermitted nonpoint sources in the watershed.